

- 1     1.     A bladder for an expansion tank, comprising:  
2             a non-flexible diaphragm having a peripheral edge and an aperture adapted and  
3                 constructed to receive a flow-through connector; and  
4             a flexible diaphragm having a peripheral edge,  
5             wherein the peripheral edges of the non-flexible diaphragm and the flexible  
6                 diaphragm are sealed to one another to form a circumferential seam.
- 7     2.     The bladder of claim 1, wherein the peripheral edges of the non-flexible  
8             diaphragm and the flexible diaphragm are heat sealed to each other.
- 9     3.     The bladder of claim 1, further comprising a clench ring, wherein the peripheral  
10            edge of the non-flexible diaphragm comprises a circumferential recess and the  
11            peripheral edge of the flexible diaphragm comprises a circumferential rib, and  
12            wherein the circumferential recess meshes with the circumferential rib and the  
13            peripheral edges of the non-flexible diaphragm and the flexible diaphragm are  
14            clamped together by the clench ring.
- 15    4.     An expansion tank, comprising:  
16            an outer shell comprising a side wall and opposite end walls;  
17            a flow-through connector; and  
18            a bladder disposed within the outer shell, the bladder comprising:  
19            a non-flexible diaphragm having a peripheral edge and a flexible diaphragm  
20                having a peripheral edge, the non-flexible diaphragm being positioned  
21                between the flow-through connector and the flexible diaphragm and which  
22                is connected to one of the outer shell and the flow-through connector such  
23                that the flow-through connector provides fluidic communication between  
24                an exterior of the tank and an interior of the bladder, wherein the  
25                peripheral edges of the non-flexible diaphragm and the flexible diaphragm  
26                are sealed to one another to form a circumferential seam, and wherein a  
27                space within the bladder is fluidically isolated from a space between the  
28                bladder and the outer shell.

- 1     5.     The expansion tank of claim 4, wherein the flow-through connector comprises:  
2             a nipple having first and second ends, the first end comprising a plurality of tabs,  
3             wherein the tabs are manipulable between an insertion position and a securing  
4             position to secure the nipple to the bladder.
- 5     6.     The expansion tank of claim 5, wherein the flow-through connector further  
6             comprises:  
7             a first retainer ring fixedly attached to the nipple and disposed between the  
8             bladder and the outer shell;  
9             a second retainer ring disposed about the nipple and within the bladder;  
10            a first o-ring disposed between the first retainer ring and the bladder; and  
11            a second o-ring disposed between the second retainer ring and the bladder,  
12            wherein, in the securing position, the tabs press the second retainer ring towards  
13            the first retainer ring to create a seal preventing fluidic communication  
14            between an interior of the bladder and a space between the bladder and the  
15            outer shell.
- 16    7.     The expansion tank of claim 4, wherein the flow-through connector comprises:  
17            a central high pressure inflow channel defined by a non-rotating flow guidance  
18            element;  
19            at least one low pressure outflow channel disposed circumferentially about the  
20            flow guidance element; and  
21            a contoured cap through which water passes out of the central high pressure  
22            inflow channel into the bladder and containing a plurality of inlets into the  
23            low pressure outflow channel having a total cross sectional area less than  
24            or equal to the total cross sectional area of the inflow channel,  
25            wherein, when the flexible diaphragm rests against the cap, the bladder is  
26            essentially empty, and the tank is adapted and constructed to circulate  
27            water such that a first portion of water entering the tank leaves the tank  
28            before a second portion of water entering the tank after the first portion of  
29            water leaves the tank.

- 1 8. The expansion tank of claim 7, wherein the plane of an inlet opening of the inflow
- 2 channel is oriented perpendicular to the plane of an outlet opening of the inflow
- 3 channel.